AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 30 and 31 as follows:

In Fig. 1, reference numeral 6 indicates a master device for collecting sampling information from each of the slave devices and executing communications for matching the sampling time according to that in each slave device. Reference numeral 7 indicates a plurality of slave devices each for transmitting the sampling information to the master device 6 and also executing communications for matching the sampling time according to that in the master device. Reference numeral 8 indicates a packet multiplexer. Two packets as explained below are transacted between the master device 6 and the [save] slave device 7. The first packet is a general packet indicating sampling information, and the second packet is a specific packet used for communications for matching sampling [time] times.